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Attorney Docket No. AUS920030688US1  
Serial No. 10/692,166  
Response to Office Action mailed October 2, 2006

### I. REMARKS

1. The examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to include hardware, namely, "a database located in a memory," and "wherein the computer implemented process automatically causes a computer to ...." Claims 2-9 depend from the correct claim 1. The applicant has also removed the word "prevents" which should have been deleted in the previous amendment.
2. The examiner rejected claims 1-39 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ictips Cowboy SQL Templates written in February, 2003 ("ICST"), in view of Evans et al. (US 2004/0220917, filed 9/30/2003) ("Evans").

Applicant previously amended each independent claim to add the limitation of automatically placing a clause into a query for a database so that query can only access necessary tables in the database. The examiner states that merely automatically adding a clause in the query to access only the necessary databases is insufficient to distinguish over the prior art. The Applicant has further limited the independent claims to "*identify a set of necessary tables in the database* and place a clause into the query so that the query can only access the set of necessary tables." Applicant submits that this amendment distinguishes over the prior art cited by the examiner and would show the following.

The examiner correctly pointed out that ICST teaches a method of creating a query for a database using a drop down menu whereby a user can select only necessary tables for performing

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Serial No. 10/692,166  
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a SQL query, and places a statement in the query to only search the necessary tables. (OA at page 3.) The present invention distinguishes over ICST because the present invention *automatically* screens all available tables in a database to identify only the tables necessary to perform the SQL search, then creates a clause for the query that only searches the identified necessary tables. The present invention has advantages over the ICST template in that the present invention automatically determines necessary tables based on the initial query, rather than having a user select a set of necessary tables from all available tables in a drop down menu. While it is possible for a user if ICST to select a set of just the necessary tables, and generate a statement joining just the necessary tables, the present invention eliminates the need for the user to make the selection by automating the process of identifying the set of necessary tables.

As stated in the previous response, the present application differs from ICST in view of Evans for two reasons. First, applicant's process pre-screens tables prior to creating a query, while Evans blocks an already existing query from joining tables that are already included in the existing query. Second, applicant adds only necessary tables to a list of tables to join, and then creates a SQL statement that can access necessary tables. In contrast, Evans, in response to an existing SQL statement, creates a "blocked table list," and executes the pre-existing SQL statement while blocking joins of any table in the "blocked table list." The present invention is more efficient than Evans because the present invention automatically determines a set of necessary tables and adds the set of necessary tables to the SQL query, rather than automatically determining a set of unnecessary tables and blocking issued queries to set of unnecessary tables as performed by Evans. The present invention avoids the need for a "blocked table list" and a second set of commands to block preexisting queries to the set of unnecessary tables.

Attorney Docket No. AUS920030688USI  
Serial No. 10/692,166  
Response to Office Action mailed October 2, 2006

With regard to the specific claim rejections in the Final Office Action over ICST for claims 2 and 17, 3 and 18, 4 and 19, 6 and 21, 7 and 22, 8 and 23, 9 and 24, 11 and 26, 12 and 27, 13 and 28, 14 and 29, 15 and 30, and 16 and 31, the identified steps are performed automatically in the present invention, rather than being selected from a drop down menu by a user. These claims distinguish over the prior art in that the specific intermediate steps are performed by the invention without intervention or direction by a user.

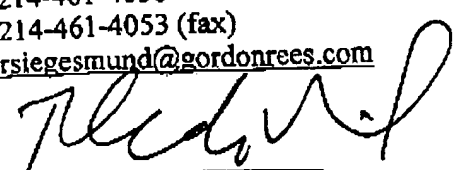
With regard to the specific claim rejections in the Final Office Action over ICST in further view of Evans, for claims 5 and 20, 10 and 25, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39, identified steps are performed automatically in the present invention, rather than being selected from a drop down menu by a user. Evans does not teach determining necessary tables for a SQL query, but rather teaches determining unnecessary tables and blocking queries to unnecessary tables. The present invention distinguishes over Evans in that the present invention does not block queries to unnecessary tables, but rather creates a SQL query that only includes necessary tables. Unlike ICST, the present invention automatically creates a SQL query without requiring a user to select tables or fields from drop down menus in a template.

Because the present invention automatically performs functions that require user interactions in the ICST reference, and because the present invention simplifies and removes steps from the solution disclosed by Evans, the applicant submits that the claims as presently presented are in condition for allowance.

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